

E-Scooters in SGF

How to support a rapidly evolving industry while protecting Springfield citizens and their interests.



E-Scooter Pros:



- They can be fun
- Provide perceived economic benefits to SGF
- Can be used as alternate transportation



E-Scooter Cons:

- They are dangerous when not operated correctly
- Have the potential to become a public nuisance
- Are difficult to regulate

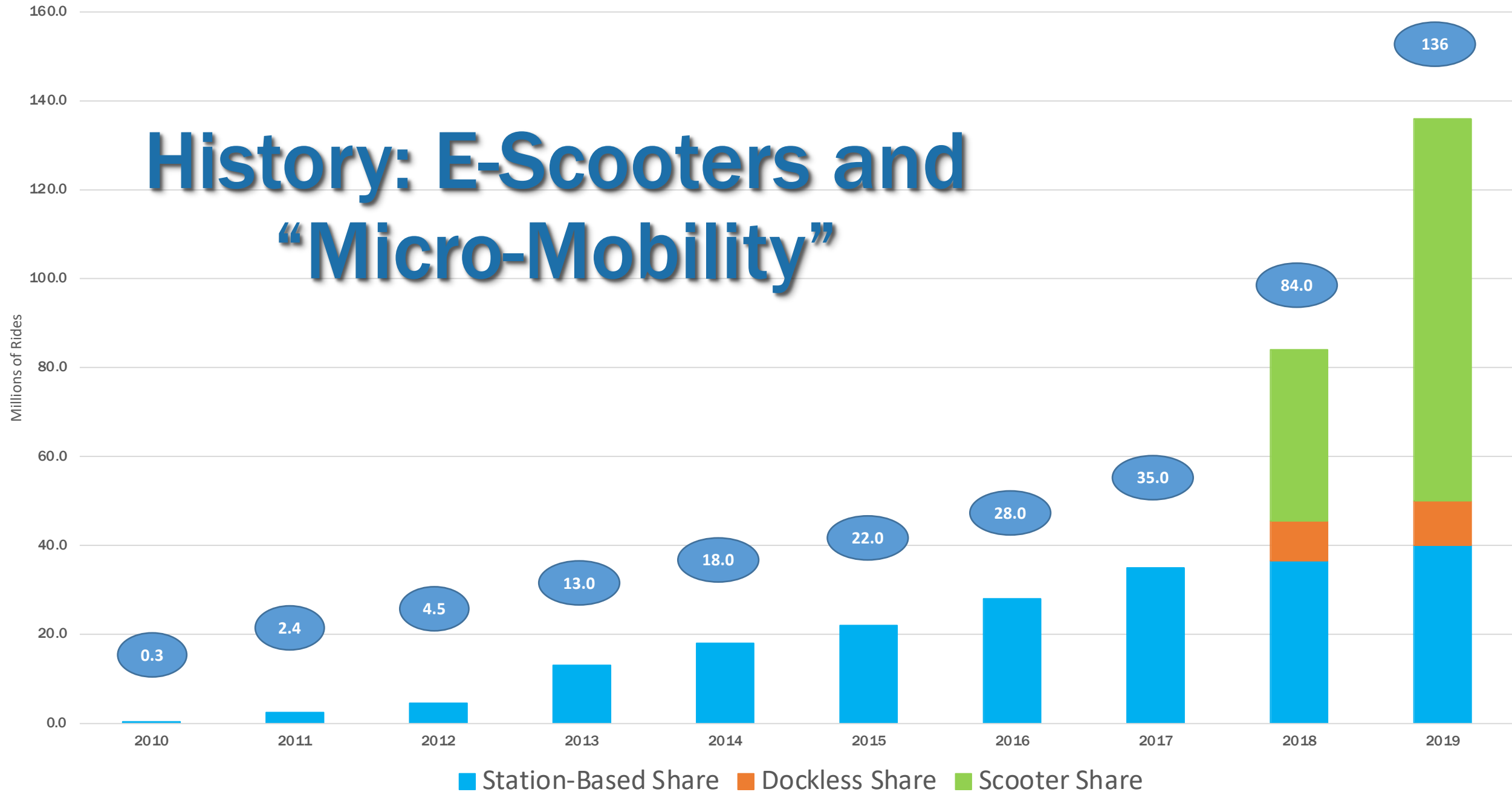
BACKGROUND:

- “Micromobility?”
- E-scooters do not fit current City Code
- E-scooter rentals is a RAPIDLY changing industry



Shared Micromobility Ridership Growth, 2010-2019

History: E-Scooters and “Micro-Mobility”



A Path Forward:

“The secret to change is not spending all your energy on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

Socrates

A Path Forward:

The City formed a CORE TEAM in 2021 that has developed a plan to make FLEXIBLE code changes to facilitate **safe, efficient** and **economically viable** operation of e-scooter companies in Springfield.

Core Team members included partners from Missouri State University and staff from multiple City Departments.

Feedback and Research:

- Met with 15 stakeholder groups
- Met with micromobility companies
- Provided an online feedback form
- Gathered research from over 130 other cities



What We Learned:

- Regulation is “Consistently Inconsistent”
- Over-regulation is NOT advantageous
- Coordination with higher education community is key!
- Risk and cost are part of any E-Scooter program



Stakeholder Feedback:

There were numerous opinions of varying degrees of support and concerns expressed with e-scooters in SGF. Overall, the majority are supportive with some restrictions in place.

Core Team's Recommendations:

Change City Code to facilitate the following:

- Define E-scooters and Micromobility devices in City Code
- Allow City Traffic Engineer to create restrictions in a similar manner as for vehicular traffic
- Allow micromobility companies to work under the same protocols as Bike-Share requirements in City Code



Core Team's Recommendations:

Propose the following INITIAL operating restrictions:

- No e-scooters on sidewalks in C-Street or Downtown areas
- E-scooters not allowed on streets with speed limits over 30 mph
- Restricted to 5 mph where allowed to ride on sidewalks
- Require a cooperative/encroachment agreement with E-scooter rental companies



Core Team's Recommendations:

Cooperative agreements with Rental Companies:

- Flexibility to revise restrictions for ridership locations (geo-fence)
- A program for managing devices left in unapproved locations
- E-scooters must be picked up each evening by 10 p.m.
- Data must be provided detailing all trips and ridership



Missouri State University:

- Partnership with City
- Student Initiative
- Partnership opportunity with other higher education institutions
- Single vendor for campus





E-SCOOTER SUMMARY:

- E-scooters can work in SGF and contribute positively to Quality of Place
- There is a “cost” to City Staff
- Expect growing pains and be **FLEXIBLE**

Questions?

